

# CROMER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1939

Cromer.  
7th October, 1940.

Miss Behrens & Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1939 is on the lines indicated by Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health and is an interim report only.

The Sunshine for the year was 1573.7 hours as compared with 1698.5 hours in 1938: the rainfall 22.69 inches as compared with 20.70 inches in 1938.

### SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in Acres) ... ..	1148
Estimate of resident population	
(a) for calculation of Birth Rates. ... ..	3968
(b) for calculation of Death Rates or incidence of notifiable diseases	4045
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) ... ..	1250
Rateable Value ... ..	£38,268
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£145

The Season was seriously affected by the outbreak of War and the prohibition of visitors to Cromer as a Defence Area.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births (Legitimate)	39	22	17	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population 10.33
(Illegitimate)	2	1	1	
Still Births	1	0	1	Rate per 1000 total (Live & Still) 23.8
Deaths	53	22	31	Death Rate per 1000 resident population 13.10.

Deaths from puerperal causes - none

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1000 Live Births (2) ..	....	....	48.7
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Live Births	....	....	48.7
Illegitimate " " " " " "	....	....	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	8
" " Measles (all ages)	....	....	0
" " Whooping Cough	....	....	1
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age).	....	....	0

The Resident Population as estimated by the Registrar-General is 3968, as compared with 3963 in 1938.

The Birth Rate is 10.33 as compared with 13.87 in 1938; the Birth Rate for England & Wales being 15.0

The Still Birth Rate is 23.80 as compared with 35.08 in 1938; England & Wales being 0.59.

The Death Rate is 13.10 as compared with 11.60 in 1938; the Death Rate for England & Wales being 12.1.

The Infantile Mortality is 48.7 as compared with 18.18 in 1938; the Infantile Mortality of England & Wales being 50.

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CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1939

	M	F
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	-
31. Congenital debility, premature birth &c-	1	1
33. Suicide	1	-
34. Other Violence	3	2
35. Other defined diseases	-	4
14. Diabetes	-	1
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	-
16. Heart Diseases	7	10
19. Bronchitis	-	4
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	2	2
22. Peptic Ulcer	2	1
4. Whooping-Cough	1	-
6. Influenza	1	1
13. Cancer	3	5
	<u>22</u>	<u>31</u>

SECTION B. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (1) Water. The Water from Metton is controlled by a chemical and bacteriological examination once yearly, the results indicate an efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character, and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

3. (111) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Tabular Statement furnished by the Sanitary Inspector under Article 27(18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

House to house Inspections	....	....	138
Special Inspections	....	....	23
Inspections of nuisances discovered	....	....	31
Re-inspections to ascertain progress of Sanitary and informal orders			40
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases			17
Visits to Isolation Hospital	....	....	0
Inspections under Factory & Workshop Act	....	....	9
Re-Inspections	....	....	3
Inspections of Dairies, Milkshops & Cowsheds	....	....	14
Inspections of Tenements			<u>16</u>
			<u>291</u>

Premises disinfected	....	....	3
Rooms disinfected	....	....	11
Premises to which Smoke Test applied	....	....	0
Committee Meetings attended	....	....	12
Preliminary Notices served	....	....	14
Legal Notices served	....	....	2
Legal Proceedings taken	....	....	0
Defects found by house to house inspection	....	....	10
Defects found by other inspection	....	....	0
Defects found by other Workshop Inspections	....	....	0
Defects found by other Tenement Inspections	....	....	1
Complaints received at Office	....	....	27

SECTION D - HOUSING

The Slum clearance scheme has been completed and no further houses condemned during the year.

Overcrowding during the year has been negligible.

The Influx of evacuees (on 17th Nov. 1939) and the Military during the latter part of the year has so far caused no dislocation of water supply and sewage disposal. Ample accommodation has been found without inconvenience to the civil population from a health standpoint.



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On 31st December, 1939 there were 227 unaccompanied children, 12 helpers and 20 teachers from two R.C. Schools in the North of London; St. Joseph's School, Highgate and the Sacred Heart, Holloway, transferred to Cromer from Rural Districts in Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

SECTION F. - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### General Diseases notified:-

- 3 cases of Scarlet Fever.
- 1 case of Pneumonia.
- 5 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.
- 10 cases of Dysentery(9 in Convalescent Home).
- 2 " " Chickenpox.
- 2 " " Pulmonary Tuberculosis
- 2 " " Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis

The case rates of the following diseases as compared with England and Wales, are as under:-

			Per 1000 resident population	
			Cromer	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever	...	...	0.74	1.89
Pneumonia...	...	...	0.24	1.02
			Per 1000 total (Live & Still) Births	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	119.04	14.35

During the year I have received 8 copies of reports on Swabbing for Diphtheria and two examinations of Sputum from the Norfolk County Laboratory.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Disease	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	4	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1

Age Groups:-  
 Scarlet Fever 3-4 one, 5-10:two.  
 Pneumonia 65 &:over one.  
 Puerperal Pyrexia 20-35:five.

### Tuberculosis

Age Periods	New cases and Mortality during 1939							
	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15-25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-

ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on the 1st July, 1938)

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health, including Inspections by Sanitary Inspector.

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Continued

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (with mechanical power)	4	1	0
Factories (without mechanical power)	13	0	0
Other Premises	0	0	0
	17	1	0

2. Defects

Particulars (1)	Number of defects			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspec- tor (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	0	0
Other offences	3	6	0	0
	6	6	0	0

There have been no instances of outwork in unwholesome premises.

In conclusion I have to thank Mr. G. Eric Mitchell for his invaluable help in compiling this report.

I am, Sirs,  
Your obedient Servant,

R. C. M. COLVIN-SMITH.

M.B., B.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., B.A.  
Fellow of the Society of Medical Officers of  
Health.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.